

REMARKS***Status of the Claims***

Claims 1, 2, 4-14, and 16-19 are pending, with Claims 1 and 13 being independent. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended and Claims 3 and 14 have been canceled. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 3, and Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 15. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0039699 ("Nishimori") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0137357 ("Kido"). The reasons for the rejection are stated on page 2 of the Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has acknowledged the allowability of Claim 3, stating "Applicants argument with reference to table 2 and page 53 [0030-0031] showing the viscosity, diameter and eluting rate are specific to the content of the first and second wax." (Office Action, Page 2). As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 3 (*i.e.*, the first wax having a content in a range of 10 to 30 % by weight in the core

layer and the second wax having a content in a range of 5 to 25 % by weight in the shell layer), thereby rendering the rejection with regards to Claims 1, 2, and 4-12 moot.

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 15 (*i.e.*, the first wax having a content in a range of 10 to 30 % by weight in the core layer and the second wax having a content in a range of 5 to 25 % by weight in the shell layer).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13, and Claims 14 and 16-19, which depend from Claim 13, are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 3 is allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

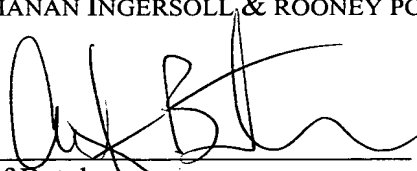
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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